

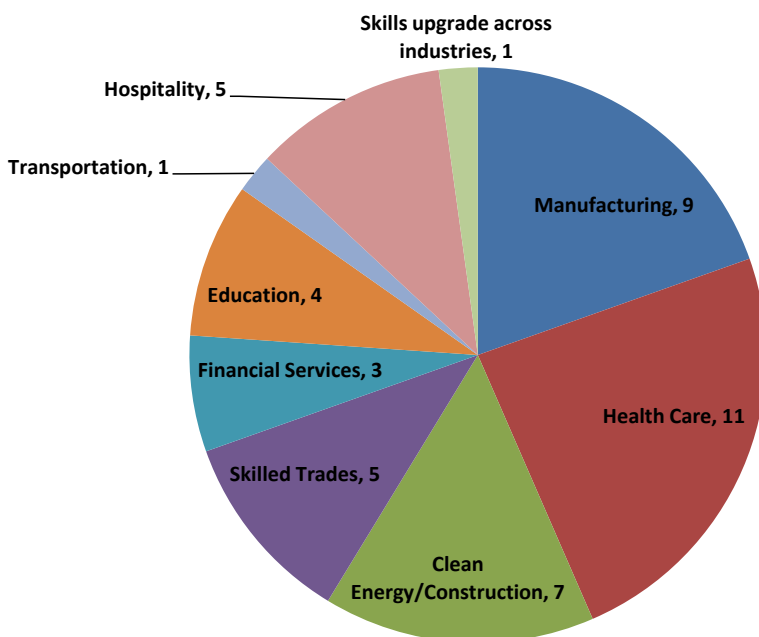
Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund

The Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund was created in 2006 to develop training pipelines to meet the skill needs of businesses in high demand occupations.

This state-funded initiative is administered by Commonwealth Corporation on behalf of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and was capitalized at \$18 million through the Economic Stimulus Act of 2006. The Economic Development Act of 2012 provided an additional \$5 million in funding. The Economic Development Act of 2014 provided \$1.5 million in funding. All program funding has been obligated (except for the most recent 2014 allocation); there is no recurring funding stream.

The WCTF has been guided by an advisory committee representing community-based organizations, education and workforce development agencies, labor, industries and employers, and is chaired by Rachel Kaprielian, Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development.

- Since 2007, the WCTF has developed 46 regional training partnerships across the state. The diversity of the industries in which training was provided through the WCTF is outlined below:



Greg Garrison, CEO of NorthEast Solar, said the following about the WCTF funded Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency certificate and degree programs at Greenfield Community College: "[The program has] helped us build a workforce with trained and qualified people."

- During the Great Recession, 6,751 individuals were trained through WCTF regional partnerships. As a result of the training, businesses documented significant improvements in **productivity, profitability, increased sales, employee retention, diversity, safety, communication skills and customer service**. Businesses reported **reductions in turnover, error rates, set-up times, manufacturing time and scrap, and new employee orientation time**. **Businesses were able to operate in new markets, develop career and education pathways and train individuals for occupations with critical shortages**. Many of those trained were incumbent workers, and there were 5,459 positive employment outcomes.
- The 15 new WCTF partnerships, which began in 2013 and target the unemployed, collectively plan to train 772 unemployed individuals (and place 614) and 81 incumbent workers (of whom 60 will earn wage increases as a result of training). The anticipated average starting hourly wages for individuals trained and placed through these partnerships range from \$12.12 to \$20.62.
- Between 2007 and 2011, WCTF regional partnerships leveraged \$16,430,917 in matching funds from businesses, philanthropy and other sources. The 15 new partnerships that began in 2013 have committed to close to \$2.5 million in matching funds.

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